

Information for **parents** about **pre-teen vaccines**

As kids get older, protection provided by some childhood vaccines can begin to wear off. Kids can also develop risks for more diseases as they get older. Help your child transition into adolescence in a healthy way by staying up-to-date on pre-teen vaccines. Doctors recommend that all 11 and 12 year olds get the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines. 11 and 12 year old girls should also get the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Recommended vaccines and the diseases they prevent

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Disease HPV is a common virus. HPV is most common in people in their teens and early 20s. It is the major cause of cervical cancer in women.

Vaccine HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer and genital warts. This vaccine is recommended for 11 and 12 year old girls. Ideally girls should get 3 doses of this vaccine before their first sexual contact when they could be exposed to HPV. If your teenage daughter missed getting the vaccine when she was 11 or 12, ask her doctor about getting it now.

Meningococcal Disease (a common cause of meningitis)

Disease Meningococcal meningitis is a very serious infection of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. It can cause death. Meningococcal bloodstream infection can cause loss of an arm or leg and even death.

Vaccine Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) protects against these infections. Pre-teens should receive a single shot of this vaccine during their 11 or 12 year old check-up. If your teenager missed getting the vaccine at his/her check-up, ask the doctor about getting it now.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Disease Whooping cough is highly contagious with prolonged cough. If it is transmitted to infants, it may be life-threatening.

Vaccine Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) is an improvement to the old Td booster because it adds protection from whooping cough while still maintaining protection from tetanus and diphtheria. Pre-teens should receive a single shot of Tdap at their 11 or 12 year old check-up.



**Help keep your
pre-teen healthy
and safe with
immunizations.**

Check with your child's doctor to make sure your child isn't missing any doses of these childhood vaccines

Hepatitis B

Disease Can cause lifelong infection, liver damage, liver failure, cancer, and death.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella

Disease Historically these are among the most serious vaccine-preventable diseases.

Polio

Disease Highly contagious; it causes flu-like symptoms, but can also cause paralysis and death.

Varicella (Chickenpox)

Disease Highly contagious; it causes rash, itching, fever and tiredness. It can lead to severe skin infections, scars, pneumonia, brain damage, and death.

For more information contact your
County Health Department

For a listing of vaccine providers see
immunization.mt.gov



State of Montana
DPHHS/Immunization Program

For more information on vaccines, ask your child's
healthcare provider or call
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

Website: **www.cdc.gov/vaccines/preteen/**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



It's their turn!

Pre-teens need vaccines too!



Why should my child receive the meningitis and whooping cough vaccines?

All children should be protected against serious diseases. The CDC recommends that 11 and 12 year olds receive the MCV4 vaccine to protect against meningococcal disease (meningitis) and the Tdap vaccine to protect against pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, and tetanus.

Are these diseases really harmful to my child?

Yes. Meningococcal infection can be very serious, even deadly. The disease can become deadly fast, sometimes in 48 hours or less. Even with antibiotic treatment, adolescents die in about 10% of cases. About 20% of survivors will have long-term disability, such as loss of a limb, deafness, nervous system problems, or brain damage.

Whooping cough (pertussis) causes coughing fits that can be so severe that adolescents can miss school or be unable to participate in sports or other social activities. Parents may also have to miss work in order to take care of a sick child.

I thought my child was already vaccinated against whooping cough (pertussis) . . .

Protection from some childhood vaccines can wear off. The immunity from childhood vaccination against pertussis does not last into the adolescent years. A booster shot will help your child to continue to be protected against pertussis.

What other vaccines are recommended for adolescents?

There are three vaccines recommended for adolescents. Tdap protects against pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, and diphtheria; MCV4 protects against meningococcal disease (meningitis), and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for girls protects against cervical cancer. Adolescents might also need other vaccinations. Ask your doctor about vaccinations your child may have missed.

Are the vaccines safe?

Yes. The recommended vaccines are safe and effective. Before any vaccine is licensed and made available to the public, it must be extensively studied and the FDA must approve it as safe and effective. These vaccines are also recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

How much do these vaccines cost?

For families with health insurance, all or most of the cost is usually covered. Children age 18 and younger may be eligible to get the vaccines free through the Vaccines for Children program (VFC) if they are Medicaid eligible, uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native. Parents can find a VFC provider by contacting their local health department.

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